

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

September 18, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6115

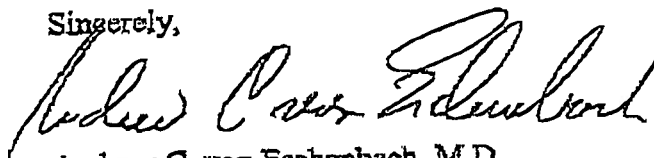
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter dated September 17, 2007, cosigned by Chairman Bart Stupak, Mr. Joe Barton, and Mr. Ed Whitfield, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, regarding investigative matters relating to Food and Drug Administration compensation for time set aside for religious observances. In your letter, which I received on September 17, you requested information and documents relating to religious compensatory time.

In order to respond to your request in a timely manner, I have asked my staff in the Office of Legislation to immediately begin coordinating the timely collation of information from the relevant components of our Agency. Some of the information you requested may take additional time to produce. Please be assured it is my intention to respond at the soonest possible time. The Office of Legislation will schedule the interview and keep your staff apprised of the status of our response to your request. A similar letter will be sent to Chairman Stupak, Mr. Barton, and Mr. Whitfield.

I appreciate your interest in this issue. If you have any questions, please contact our Office of Legislation at 301-827-3793.

Sincerely,



Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Commissioner of Food and Drugs